THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Constitution of India provides for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens."

SRI MOHAMED RAZAKHAN :—" Sir, we hear these days so much about backward communities among the Hindus. May I know what are the forward communities among the Hindus? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I think, Sir, certain Muslim communities are included in the backward classes, and there are several Hindu communities in the forward classes."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has not followed my question. I did not put a question about Muslims, because they are left to themselves. We hear so much these days about backward sections among the Hindus. I ask, who are the forward communities among the Hindus? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There are lots of castes, communities, and sub-communities who come under the so-called forward communities."

Attendance of office on all public holidays by the members of the clerical staff of Madras General Hospital and Stanley Hospital.

* 47 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the members of the clerical staff of the Madras General Hospital and the Stanley Hospital are required to attend office on all public holidays; and

(*b*) if so, whether they are paid any allowance for such extra duty?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Members of the clerical staff in hospitals are required to attend their offices by turns on all public holidays and they are allowed compensation holidays therefor.

" (*b*) No, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, what are the prescribed hours of attendance for clerical establishment in the City hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The usual hours, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Are the provisions of the Shop Assistants Act applicable to the City hospitals, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" They are not applicable to the hospitals, Sir. There is no holidays for sickness."

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister issue instructions to the heads of offices that the prescribed hours of work should be strictly enforced, and that the officers should not ask the clerical staff to attend office during out of office hours? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is what is usually done."

Payment of travelling allowance to the midwives working in rural dispensaries of Modern Medicine.

* 48 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the midwives working in rural dispensaries of Modern Medicine are paid any travelling allowance and whether the expenditure is met by Government or local bodies;

(b) whether similar travelling allowance is paid to midwives working in rural dispensaries of Indigenous Medicine, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any difference in the training or qualifications prescribed for the midwives employed in the different dispensaries cited in clauses (a) and (b) above?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Maternity assistants deputed for propaganda work on pre-natal care in the villages are paid a fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 15 per mensem and the expenditure is met by the local bodies concerned.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) No, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, has not the Chingleput District Board resolved to pay Rs. 15 per mensem as fixed travelling allowance to all midwives irrespective of the fact whether they are in an institution of modern medicine or indigenous medicine and, what orders have been passed thereon? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

Compulsory teaching of ' Tirukkural ' in all schools in the State.

* 49 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any arrangements have been made for the compulsory teaching of ' Tirukkural ' in all schools in the State; and

(b) whether the above subject has been included in the school syllabus and if so, how many hours in a week are allotted for the same; and if not, why the ' Tirukkural ' scheme has been discontinued?